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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1183
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 001681

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/12/04

TAGS: PREL PGOV EUN GR

SUBJECT: Greek Views on December 2009 FAC

REF: ELIZABETH KONICK EMAIL 12/04/2009

CLASSIFIED BY: Deborah McCarthy, Deputy Chief of Mission; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C) On December 4, Poloff discussed ref points on U.S. positions on the December 8 FAC (Foreign Affairs Council) with Alexandros Ioannidis, European Correspondent in the MFA All Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) Division. Ioannidis said the FAC's agenda would focus on the Middle East peace process, Iran, EUFOR Althea, and a "get to know" introductory meeting with new EU High Representative Catherine Ashton.

¶2. (C) WESTERN BALKANS: Ioannidis said the only Balkans topic discussed would be EUFOR Althea: how big the mission would be and how it would change. He noted an "unnamed country" had been isolated on the issue, but was one of the major EU members and thus had forced the decision to a ministerial level. The division of views centered on how the current operational phase would transition to a training phase.

¶3. (C) IRAN: Ioannidis said the Greek position had not changed--proceeding with caution and gradually intensifying pressure was the preferred tactic. He said additional sanctions at this point in time would not be beneficial, as Greece didn't want to corner Iran. Ioannidis noted that Iran policy decisions might be elevated to the head of state level at the upcoming EU summit.

¶4. (C) MIDDLE EAST: Ioannidis noted a "very lively debate" among EU member states, focusing on the issues of using 1967 borders as a reference as well as the status of East Jerusalem as a potential Palestinian capital. The decision would thus be addressed at a ministerial level.

Speckhard